Reducing Public and Environmental Exposures to Toxic Hazards

WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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A sense of the problem

Reducing Toxic Threats

- Policy reform at state and federal level
- Eliminate or phase out PBTs
- Spur the use of alternatives Assessment
- Promote Green Chemistry

Toxics Reduction Strategy Workgroup

- Martin Baker -
  - Seattle Public Utilities
- Rod Brown-
  - Cascadia Law Group
- Howard Frumkin-
  - UW
- Sanjay Kapoor-
  - Washington Business Alliance
- Sara Kendall-
  - Weyerhaeuser
- Doug Krapas-
  - IEP
- B. Paul Lumley-
  - CRITFC
- Tom Newlon-
  - Stoel Rives
- John Stark-
  - Washington Stormwater Center
- Laurie Valeriano-
  - Washington Toxics Coalition

Principles for Action

- Shared responsibility
- Prevention
- Set Priorities
- Chemical Safety
- Chemical Information
- Disclosure
- Account for All Costs
- Effective Laws and Regulations

Recommendations

- Safer chemicals are better
- System for priority setting
- Continue to take actions to reduce releases and exposures
- WA as a leader in green chemistry
- Targeted education campaigns
- Voluntary, positive labels

Recommendations

- Equitable and predictable responsibility across the supply chain
- Taxes on priority toxics to support reduction efforts
- New tools for permittees
- Permittee actions to support safer alternatives
- Ban or restrict priority toxics
- Inventory and evaluation of current authorities

1976 Federal Toxics Substance Control Act

To protect the public from "unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment" by regulating the manufacture, sale of, and uses of chemicals. No substantial amendment since the 1990s.

Concerns:

- Overwhelming number of chemicals
- Testing
- Enforceability
- Lack of shared data
- Limited understanding of chemicals use.

Ongoing Efforts

Senate Bill 1009 - Safer Chemical Improvement Act introduced in Congress to reform TSCA.

Washington's Interest

Sharing of data and resources, and potential preemption of state statutes.

PBT program

- First in the nation rule to address PBTs
- Chemical Action Plans
  - Mercury, PBDEs, lead, PAHs complete
  - PCBs now underway
- Examples of recommendations in CAPS
  - Work with dental offices to install treatment on site to keep mercury from going down the drain
  - Ban PBDEs in consumer products
  - Require landlords to actively manage lead paint
  - Remove creosote pilings as a source of PAHs to water

Alternatives Assessment

- **Additional risk reduction tool:** goal is to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives
- **Evaluate:** hazard, exposure, performance, and cost
- **Multi- state developed guide:** Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, California, and Washington
- **Transparent process**
- **Testing guidance to ensure goals are met:**
  - Alternatives to copper in boat paint

Green Chemistry

- A new area of science that uses a set of principles to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous substances in the **design of products**.
- **What we're doing:**
- **Green Chemistry Roadmap** developed by many interests

- **Washington Green Chemistry Center** started with a seed grant.
- **Goals:**
  - Establish a public/private partnership to advise and build self-supporting business plan.
  - Expand green chemistry education and workforce training.
  - Address priority green chemistry research needs.
  - Build an innovative Green Washington economy.

Green Chemistry as a Prevention-based Strategy has Fostered Innovation

BEI
Building Envelope Innovations, LLC

Reformulated Product - phthalate free

EARTH FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Biodegradable Formulations

Free of:

Dye
Chlorine
Synthetics
Petrochemical
Formaldehyde

Resources

TRS Listserv:

http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=CHILDRENS-SAFE-PRODUCTS

Reducing Toxic Threats:

www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/index.htm

Children's Safe Products Act:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/

Alternatives Assessment Guidance:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/ChemAlternatives/altAssessment.html

Green Chemistry Roadmap:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/P2/greenchem_ecy.html